

What is claimed is:

1. An information relevance display method comprising:

5 a search designation step which, by a search designation unit, designates element information and attribute information;

a relevance information extract step which, by a relevance information extract unit, extracts
10 attributes common to two pieces of element information as relevance information from possessed attributes of plural pieces of element information designated in the search designation step;

15 a first network display step which, by a first network display unit, displays a first network by arranging and displaying, for the element information and the attribute information designated in the search designation step, the
20 element information as element nodes, and by connecting with edges two element nodes possessing common attribute information by referring to the relevance information; and

a second network display step which, by a
25 second network display unit, displays a second network by converting possessed attributes of the element nodes in the first network into a display

of attribute nodes for arrangement and by connecting with edges the element nodes and the attribute nodes of the possessed attributes thereof.

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2. The information relevance display method according to claim 1, wherein the first network display step includes arranging uniformly the plurality of element nodes.

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3. The information relevance display method according to claim 1, wherein the first network display step includes arranging the element nodes depending on the degree of strength of commonality, such as the number of the common attributes.

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4. The information relevance display method according to claim 1, wherein the second network display step includes arranging the attribute nodes based on distances corresponding to position information for an attribute hierarchical structure.

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5. The information relevance display method according to claim 3, wherein the second network display step includes arranging the attribute nodes by finding distances corresponding to position

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information for the attribute hierarchical structure to which predefined weight is added.

6. The information relevance display method
5 according to claim 1, wherein the second network display step includes displaying the second network by converting and arranging the common attributes represented by all or some of the designated edges in the first network into a display of the attribute
10 nodes and by connecting with the edges the element nodes and the attribute nodes of attributes possessed by the element nodes.

7. The information relevance display method
15 according to claim 1, wherein the search designation step includes selectively designating the element information and/or the attribute information by displaying a select list for element information and a select list for attribute
20 information represented by a hierarchical structure in the screen displaying the first network or the second network.

8. A program allowing a computer to execute: 
25 a search designation step which designates element information to be searched in an element information file that stores element information

including element names to be searched and possessed attributes, as well as attribute information in an attribute information file which stores attribute information including attribute
5 names;

a relevance information extract step which extracts attributes common to two pieces of element information as relevance information from possessed attributes of plural pieces of element
10 information designated in the search designation step;

a first network display step which displays a first network by arranging and displaying, for the element information and the attribute information
15 designated in the search designation step, the element information as element nodes and by connecting with edges two element nodes possessing common attribute information by referring to the relevance information; and

20 a second network display step which displays a second network by converting possessed attributes of the element nodes in the first network into a display of attribute nodes for arrangement and by connecting with edges the element nodes and the
25 attribute nodes of the possessed attributes thereof.

9. A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program allowing a computer to execute:

a search designation step which designates element information in an element information file that stores element information including element names to be searched and possessed attributes, as well as attribute information in an attribute information file which stores attribute information including attribute names;

10 a relevance information extract step which extracts attributes common to two pieces of element information as relevance information from possessed attributes of plural pieces of element information designated in the search designation step;

15 a first network display step which displays a first network by arranging and displaying, for the element information and the attribute information designated in the search designation step, the element information as element nodes and by connecting with edges two element nodes possessing common attribute information by referring to the relevance information; and

20 a second network display step which displays a second network by converting possessed attributes of the element nodes in the first network into a display of attribute nodes for arrangement and by

connecting with edges the element nodes and the attribute nodes of the possessed attributes thereof.

5 10. A search information relevance display /
apparatus comprising:

an element information file which stores element information including element names to be searched and possessed attributes;

10 an attribute information file which stores attribute information including attribute names;

a search designation unit which designates element information in the element information file and attribute information in the attribute

15 information file;

a relevance information extract unit which extracts attributes common to two pieces of element information as relevance information, from possessed attributes of plural pieces of element
20 information designated by the search designation unit;

a first network display unit which displays a first network by arranging and displaying, for the element information and the attribute information
25 designated by the search designation unit, the element information as element nodes, and by connecting with edges two element nodes possessing

common attribute information by referring to the
relevance information; and

a second network display unit which displays
a second network by converting possessed attributes
5 of the element nodes in the first network into a
display of attribute nodes for arrangement and by
connecting with edges the element nodes and the
attribute nodes of the possessed attributes
thereof.